



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
CANDLESTICK POINT STATE RECREATION AREA
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN**

Date: January 5, 2011

To: Interested Parties

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. State Parks is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION: Candlestick Point State Recreation Area is located next to Candlestick Park stadium, the home of the San Francisco 49ers football team, in the southeast corner of the City and County of San Francisco along the Bay shoreline.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: State Parks and the City and County of San Francisco have developed a Preliminary General Plan for the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area (CPSRA) in accordance with Public Resources Code §5002.2 referencing General Plan guidelines and §21000 et seq. concerning CEQA. The purpose of the Preliminary General Plan is to guide future development, management, and operation of CPSRA.

State Parks created CPSRA's first General Plan in 1979, and later amended it in 1988, with the primary goals of improving urban quality of life, celebrating San Francisco Bay and its natural and cultural resources, and providing public access to the shoreline. The process of updating CPSRA's General Plan began in early 2010, to respond to the adjacent Candlestick Point-Hunters Point Shipyard Phase II Project, which will change the relationship of the park with the surrounding neighborhood and is expected to both increase visitation and change the types of visitors. In addition, State Parks entered into a land exchange with the City and County of San Francisco that will reconfigure the park boundary—adding land in some of the narrowest areas and removing it from others. In exchange, CPSRA received funding to improve the park over the long-term. The reconfiguration will remove a net total of 20.3 acres of land from CPSRA and the new total park acreage will be 131.5 acres.

This General Plan amendment responds to the external pressures on CPSRA and sets forth a vision that is consistent with the park's mission while also adapting to forces of change. The vision of CPSRA, California's first urban state park, is to bring state park values and mission into an urban setting. Visitors from the local community, state of California, other states and foreign countries will enjoy a range of opportunities to participate in recreational activities and experience nature along San Francisco Bay.

Sweeping views of the Bay, native coastal landscapes, tidal marshes, beaches, and areas for community gathering and activity will all contribute to the character of CPSRA. The park will encourage active, healthy lifestyles while at the same time serving as a respite from the urban surroundings of San Francisco and the larger Bay Area. Recreation programs and facilities will maximize access to the Bay and be developed in concert with CPSRA's natural surroundings. CPSRA will enhance the public's understanding of the Bay – its natural history, stories of settlement and development, and future challenges related to sea level rise. The park will foster community and encourage stewardship, and in doing so, become a destination along the Bay for visitors both near and far.

Proposed uses under the Preliminary General Plan include low-impact recreation and active play, family and community events, education and interpretive activities, improved access to the Bay, water-oriented recreational opportunities, and creation of tidal marsh and upland habitats. The Preliminary General Plan also proposes to continue existing uses, such as picnicking, fishing, and use of trails and beaches. New facilities proposed under the Preliminary General Plan include an interpretive program area/pavilion, extension of the Bay Trail, picnic areas, paved and natural surface trails, fishing and viewing piers, raingardens, a non-motorized boat launch, a boating center, bike and boat rentals, concession stands, and bike or boat-in campsites.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft Program EIR identifies significant impacts with regards to land use, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, hazards and hazardous materials, biological resources, cultural resources, visual resources, utilities and public services, and traffic, and includes mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels. No known sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code are included in the project area.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft Program EIR is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, beginning January 5, 2012.

Your comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be either postmarked or submitted by email no later than Tuesday, February 21 to the following address:

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TO REVIEW THE DRAFT PROGRAM EIR: Copies of the Draft Program EIR may be reviewed online at <http://parks.ca.gov/candlestickgp>. Copies of the document are also available for review at the following locations during normal business hours:

- California State Parks, Diablo Vista District, 845 Casa Grande Road, Petaluma, CA 94954
- San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
- Bayview Library, 1601 Lane Street, San Francisco, CA 94124